



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Friday, February 8, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers attempted to stop vehicle with Suspected UDA's prior to train incident

On February 8th at 4:20 a.m., Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers attempted to stop a Ford pickup truck for speeding in the westbound lanes of Interstate 10 at milepost 249 in Marana. The vehicle failed to stop. A pursuit began. At one point stop sticks were deployed, but the truck continued on until milepost 238 where it came to a stop. Approximately 25 suspected Undocumented Aliens (UDA's) ran from the vehicle into the desert. Railroad tracks are located just east of where the vehicle stopped. As they ran across the tracks, two people, a man and a woman, were struck by a southbound Union Pacific Freight Train. The female was deceased on scene. The man was airlifted to a local hospital.

A DPS Ranger Helicopter conducted an extensive search in the area for the other suspected UDA's with negative results due to darkness. Agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are on the scene. In addition, the DPS Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is also on the scene conducting an investigation of the incident.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

Contact: DPS Officer Quentin Mehr
pio@azdps.gov

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov